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4-24-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/931,396

Group Art Unit: 2163

Filing Date: 08/16/2001

Applicant: Nelson, et al.

Entitled: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETECTING SUPPLIER INSTABILITY

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8 (A)	
	Date of Deposit: <i>March 28, 2002</i>
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231	
	<i>Jody K. Prince</i> Jody K. Prince

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98**

As authorized and encouraged under 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98 and the provisions of MPEP §§ 609 and 707.05 (b), Applicant(s) submits herewith certain patent references, publications and/or other information which the Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the above-identified patent application. The references and information are listed below and on attached form PTO-1449.

**U.S. PATENTS**

U.S. PATENT NUMBER	INVENTOR(S)
5,765,138	Aycock, et al.

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

COUNTRY	PATENT NO.	INVENTOR(S)
None		

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

1. None.

A copy of each document is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with ample opportunity to evaluate the same and arrive at an independent assessment of the materiality of each, if any, to the examination of the above-identified application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above documents, the Examiner is instructed to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may have been done because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copies being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement are the best copies available at this time.

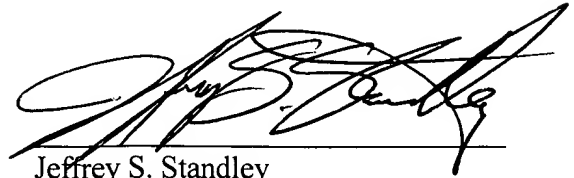
The identification of any document herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that each such document, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law.

Applicant(s) respectfully requests that the documents cited herēin be made of record in the normal manner and that such documents appear on the printed patent as being considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2-4-02

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey S. Standley', written over a horizontal line.

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FORM PTO-1449 TO BE FILED WITH  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No. HON 1448-020 Serial No. 09/931,396

INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
BY APPLICANTS

Nelson, et al.

Applicant

08/16/2001

Filing Date

2163

Group Art Unit

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Examiner's name

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner's Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/Sub- class
	5,765,138	6/98	Aycock, et al.	705/7

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner's Initial	Document Number	Date	Country/Name	Translation? yes/no
	None			

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

1. None

Examiner	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

The identification of any document herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that each such document, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law since, for example, a given document may have a later effective date than at first seems apparent or the document may have an effective date which can be antedated. The "prior art" status of any document is a matter to be resolved during prosecution.